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ASIA-PACIFIC REVIEW

VOL. IV ● NO. 30

OCTOBER 30, 1989

'No Bases Talk'

US-Canada BUSINESS JOURNEY

East Collapses

Killer Quakes

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Amid NY Poll Sideshow

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The STATE VISIT

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By Elyson C. Orpilla
President-Publisher
ELCOR Group
of Publications
& Special Correspondent
San Francisco Chronicle

Pro-Cory Filipinos in New York support Guilliani, and those who hate him help Dinkins...

NEW YORK, Nov. 5 (Via PLDT) -- Filipinos thickened in most regular hangouts on Roosevelt Avenue in Queens and throughout the weekend they enthusiastically talked about the November 7 arrival here of President Corazon Aquino who will jet in from Ottawa where she is scheduled to wind up a four-day, three-city Canadian state visit.

Enthusiasm and eagerness to meet the President filled coffee shops and eateries in the Filipino-populated district, reflecting favorable welcome atmosphere for Mrs. Aquino. The din was persistent, though, about how could have the first woman Philippine president left Manila without worrying in the midst of reports that Marcos loyalists were all over the capital city calling for the return of the body of former President Ferdinand Marcos who died weeks ago in Honolulu.

When the civilian-backed Aquino group toppled Mr. Marcos from dictatorial power in 1986, he fled with his family to Honolulu. Since early this year, the Marcoses had been pushing their homecoming to Manila but the Philippine Supreme Court lately thumbed them down twice, sending loyal supporters to overflow into Manila's major streets for protest.

How she will defend Philippine sovereignty by supporting aboveboard base treaty talks and by fending off hegemonous American incursion into her turf was another verbal menu among eager Filipinos who are all set for the welcome rites Tuesday.

The New York sidetrip opens the United States visit of Mrs. Aquino which will bring her to a one-on-one talk with President George Bush at the White House on November 9. Speculation is that the two leaders will discuss the ticklish issue of re-extending the bases treaty, a controversy played down in Manila before the Aquino entourage set off for the November 3-11 journey.

Last week's press briefing in Manila made it clear to mediamen covering the state visit that the base treaty is not part of the Aquino-Bush talking points. Philippine Press Secretary Adolfo Azcuna told Filipino journalists that unless Washington officials would initiate it, the verbal interface will only cover trade and investment matters.

Such direction and format are clearly shown by the composition of the presidential entourage that includes top Filipino businessmen and by a Malacanan-prepared agenda which easily makes the visit a business journey for Mrs. Aquino.

But having Olongapo City Mayor Richard Gordon in the jaunt -- whether officially or unofficially -- for instance, creates perception that the bases will pop out during the White House palaver. Mayor Gordon told this writer that he will amplify the positive aspects of the RP-US Bases Treaty before Filipino crowds in San Diego and Los Angeles.

Mr. Gordon and the *REVIEW* publisher were in the same US-bound plane three days ago. And in a blitz chat during a stop-over in Honolulu, the Olongapo City mayor intimated that his speaking chores were important sidebar to the Washington talks. It was obvious that he supports a hidden agenda of the US trip, a view strengthened by his outspoken position for keeping the American military facilities in the archipelago. Check-in for the resumption of the Manila-Los Angeles flight cut short our chat, leaving some of my questions unanswered.

While all Filipino eyes and ears are focused on the Aquino visit, the Filipino community in Los Angeles has other things to face and worry about....

Drugs, violence and the scourge of earthquake scare people in L.A. There is a growing fear that after the devastation in San Francisco, a follow-up

READ NEXT PAGE !

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PREMIUM PAGE B

Cory's US visit

killer quake could level off the entire city.

But there are more pressing problems Mayor Tom Bradly must attend and solve. According to outspoken city residents, Los Angeles has become the jumping board for illegal drugs coming from South America to the US. "You could say that L.A. is now a US dope city," one anti-drug advocate frowned, accusing that the government couldn't do anything because corruption in many ways defangs the rule of law.

Olongapo City Mayor Richard Gordon pushes pro-Bases position...

GORDON

Protection money, he says, abets the notorious operation of the drug syndicate. Some police members are in the payroll of the dope gang. And the boodles are just too big and tempting to buy out those who oppose the flow of the illegal trade.

This writer called up the office of Bradly for an interview but an aide insinuated that everything would be next to impossible discussing all these (dope and violence) with the mayor. He was in Manila early this year and he personally welcomed the idea of having an interview by the REVIEW publisher down here in Los Angeles.

READ PREMIUM PAGE C

Cory's US-Canada STATE VISIT

President Corazon Aquino set off this week a scheduled nine-day business journey to the United States and Canada impressing in pre-departure press briefings that the ticklish issue of American military bases will not be taken up during her November 8 verbal interface with US President George Bush at the White House.

The bases talk will be relegated in favor of economic and business palaver, according to Press Secretary Adolf Azcuna who briefed Filipino journalists covering the state visit that will bring Mrs. Aquino's entourage to three cities in Canada and four cities in the US. Unless Washington officials push the bases issue into the agenda, he said, Mrs. Aquino will stick to the talking points outlined by Malacanan (presidential palace).

Broadly, these are the Philippine internal situation, the Multilateral Assistance Initiative (MAI), Trade and Investments, Debt Reduction, Veterans's claims, Environment and Human Rights. Discussion on the proposed extension of the RP-US Bases Treaty is surprisingly missing from the official agenda even as the issue has become a daily political menu for Filipinos whose eyes and ears are focused on the President's one-on-one talk with Mr. Bush.

Malacanan explained in an earlier briefing that there is no need to talk about the base treaty during the state visit since both governments have already agreed to tackle the issue during a scheduled negotiation meeting in Manila late this year.

Through this all, there are speculations that Mrs. Aquino could have already committed to support the continued stay of the American military facilities in the archipelago, a view that runs counter to her official position of keeping her options open. Oppositionists and administration critics in Manila describe the exclusion of the bases from the talking points as cheap camouflage for Aquino's commitment.

Supported by nationalist movements and non-aligned minds, a base pull-out proposal has soured RP-US relations, easily making the issue a frontpage controversy year-round. When Philippine media initially reported Mrs. Aquino's state visit to the US and Canada, the public mind was quick to interpret that the trip would be all for the bases and that the Filipino leader would finally meld her card to end speculation on her options.

But plans came up otherwise and experts say the US could have dictated the format of the talking points, explaining that public relations moves by the US has clearly set up a situation where the Philippine side has no better choice than sidetracked the bases talk.

By Elyson C. Orpilla
President-Publisher
ELCOR Group
of Publications
& Special Correspondent
San Francisco Chronicle

American embassy officials led by Ambassador Nicholas Platt were busy the past months amplifying the buying incentives of retaining the bases. Between bluffing that the US could pull out within a short notice, they jazzed up their stunts by giving away base assets to Filipinos in a move creating perception that the Americans are either willing to relinquish their Philippine properties to Filipinos or are ready to leave the archipelago. Platt personally turned over $1.3 trillion worth of non-movable properties to Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordonez, a handout asset described by many as financially bloated.

News reaching Manila, at the same time, was that US Congress has slashed budgetary support for military bases in South Korea and the Philippines. But experts received the news with suspicion that the message was solely for the Philippines to make it unpalatable for the Aquino government to initiate "money or base pull-out" offer in the White House agenda.

The presidential trip officially starts November 4 for a four-day visit to Canada. It will be the first state visit of a Philippine president to that country. In Vancouver, Mrs. Aquino will meet with British Columbia Premier Vander Zalm, who will host a dinner in her honor. She will also address the Filipino community there during an afternoon and evening fiesta.

The President leaves Vancouver for Toronto the next day. She will meet members of Filipino community in an evening welcome ceremony where she will be the guest of honor for the Ontario crowd led by Premier David Peterson. On November 6, Mrs. Aquino will attend a round-table meeting with a group of banking and business leaders. A Philippine-Canadian business dialogue will be hosted by the ASEAN Canada Business Council of the Chamber of Commerce of Canada, the Department of External Affairs and International Trade, and the Canadian International Development Agency.

The meeting will focus on investment opportunities in the Philippines, especially in such industries as light metals, electronic products, computer software,

READ PAGE 19/REVIEW

East Countries Going WEST

In Hungary, the ruling party scrapped its communist ideology and installed the Hungarian Socialist Party. Almost at the same time in Poland, the first non-communist prime minister was appointed. And in Berlin, pro-democracy activists had forced the resignation of East German leader Erich Henecker before they threatened the new leadership with massive street protests unless reforms are instituted.

Eastern Europe had been in political ferment before reform became in vogue the past weeks during which those three countries started defrocking their communistic political ways in favor of pro-West socialism.

Hungary's former communist leaders have taken decisive step towards surrendering their hold on power when they gave up control of their private armed forces and handed over much of their property.

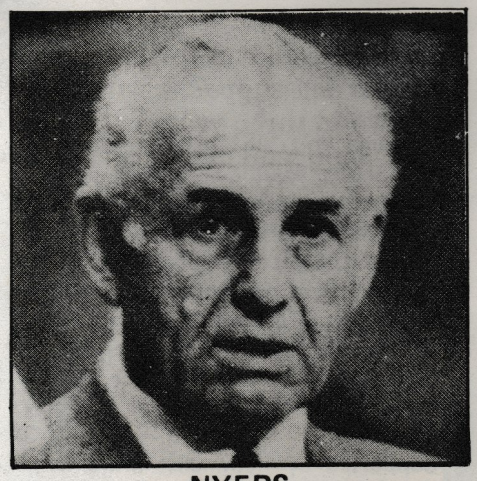
Leaders of the new Hungarian Socialist Party also voted to declare a day of national remembrance on October 23, the anniversary of the 1956 anti-communist uprising which was suppressed by Soviet armies with the death of thousands.

"This day should remind people how society and its citizens are distorted by all dictatorships," the party said. "It should also warn that the use of force to support or suppress political endeavors is good for nothing but the incitement of hatred."

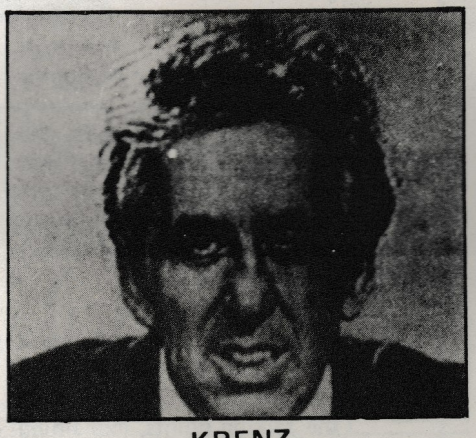
The decision was momentous because it effectively compared the 1956 uprising with Hungary's revolt in 1848 against Austrian Habsburg rule, which is seen as the inspiration for modern Hungarian yearnings for freedom and self-determination.

Delegates adopted the measures at a congress of the new socialist party which was born after the Communist Party abolished itself on October 7 in a move unprecedented in 44 years of communism in Eastern Europe.

The congress also elected Rezso Nyers, a reformer who presided over the Communist Party's abolition, as the new party's leader and handed him the mission of leading Hungary into an era of Western-style democracy.



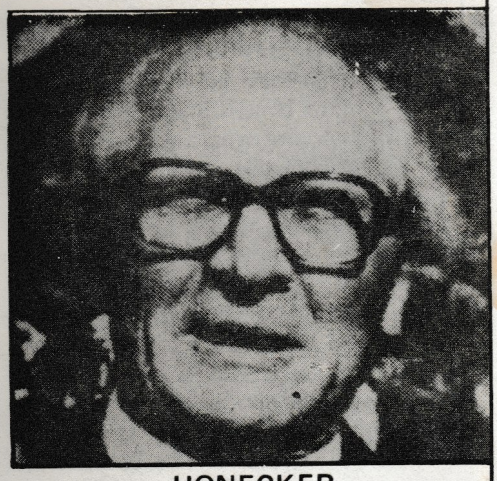
NYERS



KRENZ

Nyers, 66, was endorsed the week before last by 88% of the almost 1,300 delegates at the congress, party officials said. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who has embarked on his own reform course, sent a message of congratulations.

No less than Pope John Paul II raved about the political change in Poland, his birthplace. He welcomed in pulpit remark at the Vatican City the designation of Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Poland's first non-Communist prime minister in 40 years.



HONECKER

The government-run news agency ADN in Berlin has announced the 52-year old Egon Krenz had replaced Honecker whose failing health was mentioned as the reason for his relief.

But the East German leader also had been under increasing pressure to resign after a wave of protests swept the country and pro-democracy movements picked up growing support.

Krenz said in a broadcast interview that he was taking over the leadership at a difficult time for the nation.

In an interview with East German television and carried by West Germany's ARD television network, Krenz said, "I realize this is a difficult task that I have taken over."

The political ferment that preceded Honecker's resignation had up to 70,000 people demonstrating for reform of East Germany's hardline Marxist system. The street protest was the biggest since a failed anti-communist uprising in 1953.

Church officials said the protesters, angered by police baton charges that put down a nationwide wave of demons-

READ PAGE 20/REVIEW

Killer Quake

By Margarita C. Orpilla
Feature Editor
Asia-Pacific REVIEW

The temblor that buried portions of San Francisco did not only claim losses of life and property. It created a ghost for Californians to make themselves fear -- and be prepared -- for a more devastating earthquake that will come within the next 30 years.

According to seismologists, a cosmic temblor has a big chance of striking the Bay Area following last fortnight's shattering earthquake that killed close to 250 and wounded big number of commuters.

Oakland and the Bay Area were a picture of the biblical end-of-the-world disaster. And pictures initially reaching Manila gave the impression that the death toll could be more, sending Filipinos who have relatives in California to great fear and sleepless nights.

The ground was a wave under a surfboard, and the cars on the highway were jumping up and down like in a war movie, some horrified survivors say. From the first shake of the San Andres Fault to its nationally televised eruption all across the Bay Area, the earthquake was a spectacke that seemed part divine, part Hollywood -- and all Californian.

Dozens of commuters were mangled to death and many others were injured when the Nimitz Freeway collapsed. Surviving Oakland residents risked their own lives to save others who have been trapped. "We were worried that the freeway could collapse on us," said one rescue volunteer who narrated to the media that he overheard people moaning and groaning for help."

Some 25 decrepit buildings came crashing down. And the whole Bay Area was enveloped with fear. Alone in his shambled flat, Filipino newsman Dolphy Tabaldo thought the city had been destroyed.

The Marina District was an all-night blanket of fire and the inferno was a grim reminder of 1906. Thanks god, the earthquake hit during daylight hours, and there was almost no wind to spread the flames. Neither part of the city's emergency network was put out of action by the quake itself.

Interstate 880 was scene of one of the most heart-rending rescues of the Bay Area's disaster. Concrete beams fell like chopping blade. In Santa Cruz County, a dozen persons died and over 600 were injured.

The grim experience now contributes to a plan model for emergency preparedness. And the earthquake that is now ghost for everyone should be able to develop in every Californian a sharp reflex to respond to a more devastating earthquake.

EDITORIAL

One-China policy

The Philippines is torn between two Chinas – Taipei which has $80 billion in international reserves and Beijing which insists on the observance of a one-China policy.

The Republic of China (ROC) or Taiwan is seeking to institutionalize its trade and economic ties with the Philippines, actively lobbying for the passage of the proposed "Philippine-Taiwan Beneficial Relations Act" under congressional consideration in Manila. The island state became in 1988 the biggest foreign investor in the Philippines, and holds out prospects of more investment and broader economic cooperation.

The People's Republic of China (PROC), on the other hand, is determined to exact from the Aquino government letter-perfect adherence to the one-China policy envisaged in the 1973 joint Philippine-Chinese communique establishing trade and diplomatic relations between China and the Philippines.

Beijing has registered its opposition to the enactment of the proposed "Philippine-Taiwan Beneficial Relations Act." The PROC government has openly sought the withdrawal or rejection of the proposed legislation, saying in no uncertain terms that its passage would prompt China to sever diplomatic relations with the Philippines.

China is a major military power in the Asia-Pacific region, with comparatively nominal trade with the Philippines.

If the Philippine-Taiwan bill is enacted into law, the chances are that Beijing will make good its threat to cut off diplomatic ties with the Philippines. If, on the other hand, the Philippines does nothing to institutionalize its relation with Taiwan, it would in all likelihood suffer a significant economic setback.

The plain, unvarnished fact is that the Philippines cannot afford to spurn Taiwanese investments, trade, and economic cooperation. In its drive for national economic recovery, Philippine self-interest demands continued and expanding reciprocal and beneficial relations with Taiwan.

Which could be why top Philippine government officials have non-stop pilgrimage to Taipei under the pretext of unofficial trip. No less than President Corazon Aquino last week defended such visits to Taiwan, a defensive statement viewed by Beijing as diplomatically offensive to Mainland China-Philippines relations.

Beijing has a clear point. The mere issuance of visa to visiting Filipinos is a consular activity that gives diplomatic color to the controversial RP-Taiwan relations. What's more, Taiwan has a chief of mission in Manila carrying the title of an "ambassador" and he moves around with a Mercedes Benz using diplomatic car plate.

Amid the controversy, we just hope that Congress would succeed in legalizing RP-Taiwan trade relations.

FEEDBACK *FEEDBACK* FEEDBACK

LETTERS

PRA

Do I get right that even Filipinos below 50 years old can qualify as member of the Philippine Retirement Authority's retirees program?

In your PRA article (Sept. 15), it was discussed that some amendments will be made to re-structure the operations of the agency Obviously, the tax-free benefit in the importation of cars for retirees will be suspended... Do you think the program will still work? If the car-importation for retirees will be scrapped, what come-on benefits will be introduced to keep the program competitive with other countries offering similar investment mechanisms?

Ibrahim Jorge
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Criteria for Who's Who

My son who is fourth grade in an American school in Texas have won all-around academic excellence awards since grade 1. As a Filipino family, my husband and I would like to know if our son could be listed in your **Who's Who -- Among Filipinos Abroad.**

We would be very thankful if you could send us the form for the enlistment and the Who's Who criteria.

Mr. & Mrs. Agustin Ramiro
Houston, Texas

Contact the Philippine Consular Office nearest your area or send to our office the complete resume of your son--Ed.

The PRA will better clarify you on your questions and remarks. Please write Atty. Davidica Salaya, PRA President, 2nd Floor, Producers Bank Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines --Ed.

Mitra

I fully agree with your analysis that the resignation of Speaker Ramon Mitra from the presidency of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) could be a prelude to his exit from the -controlled party and finally lead to putting up his own political group for the 1992 presidential poll.

Speaker Mitra should join the political fray in 1992 if he wants to become president. Waiting for another six years would make him politically unsalable. If he fights Cory Aquino in the next poll where there will be no serious contenders, Mitra could easily get the Northern Luzon vote especially if he amplifies a pro-Ilocano sentiment.

Andres Raquipo
Baguio City

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Baby Federis
Koror, Palau

Bien-Bien

The Cory government and some local media rave about Emilia "Bien-Bien"

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THE PHILIPPINES
REVIEW

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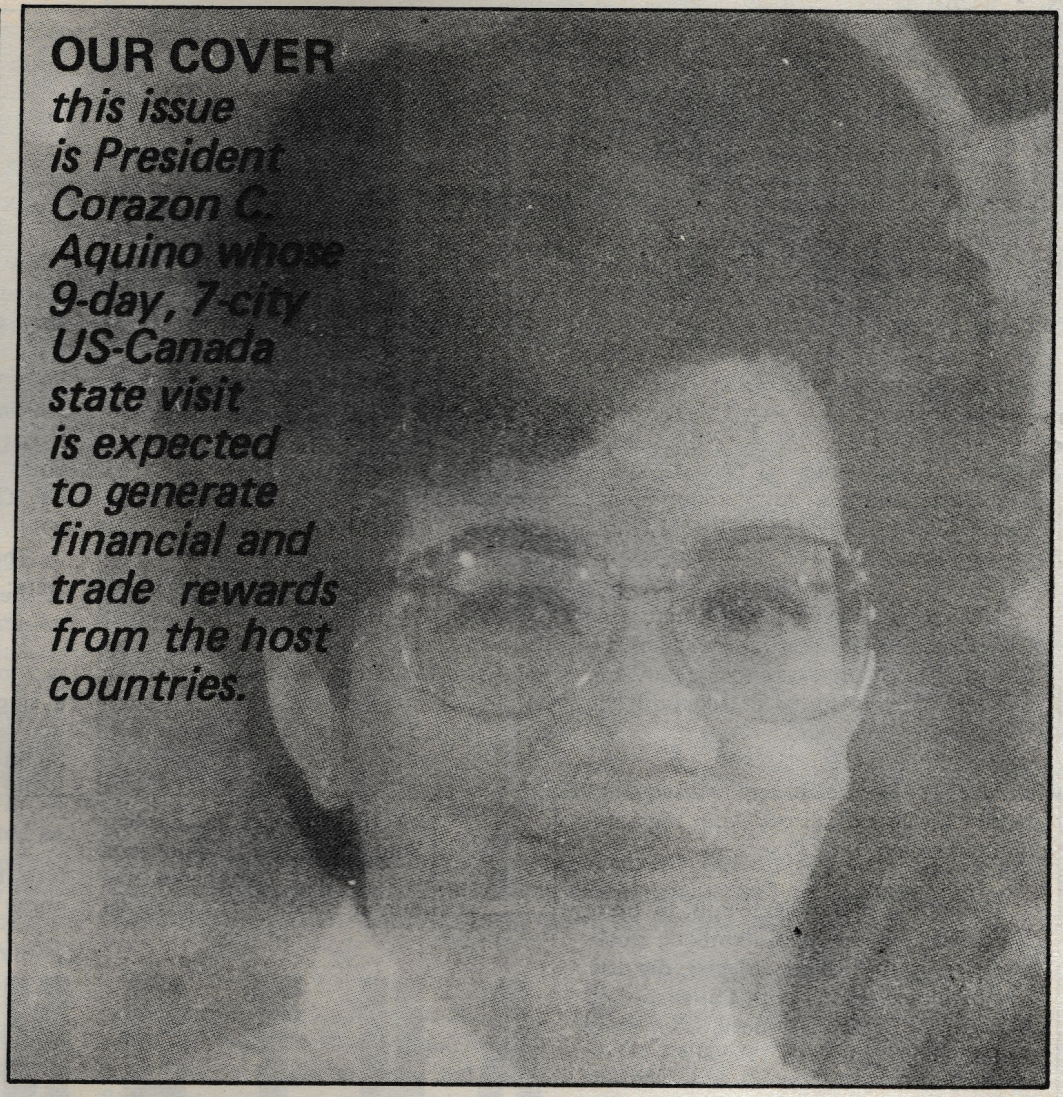

OUR COVER *this issue is President Corazon C. Aquino whose 9-day, 7-city US-Canada state visit is expected to generate financial and trade rewards from the host countries.*

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Will they vote for MUSLIM Mindanao?

By Ric Reyes, Jr.
Political Writer
Asia-Pacific REVIEW

Despite several adverse factors that could foul up whatever plans the government has for what it wrongly or rightly calls "Muslim Mindanao", administration leaders are bent on pushing through with the scheduled plebiscite on November 19, next month, for the ratification of the organic, Republic Act 6734 creating an autonomous region in Mindanao.

The avowed purposes of the organic act, in establishing an autonomous region, comprised of 13 provinces, into a "Muslim Mindanao" are:

- To provide its basic structure of government within the framework of the Constitution and national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines; and,

- To ensure peace and equality before the law of all people in the autonomous region.

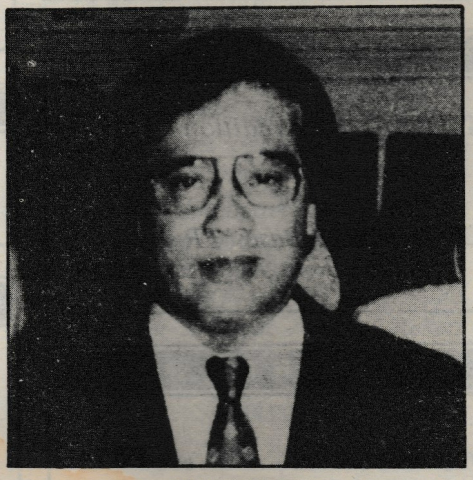
Obviously, the objective is to unite Mindanao, but the main stumbling block, however, is the feelings of bias, distrust, and prejudice among both Christians and Muslims on political, social, economic, and psychological levels.

While responsible and learned Muslim leaders like Senator Mamintal Tamano and many others who are very much well-versed about the sentiments and feelings of their people, would want - and have, in fact, recommended - to have the plebiscite postponed to a latter date for varied reasons and experiences, the ruling *Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino* (LDP) will very soon embark on a so-called "saturation drive" to woo the voters, Christians and Muslims alike, to approve the organic act during the November 19 plebiscite.

The leaders of the proposed "saturation campaign", LDP president and Senator Neptali Gonzales and Speaker Ramon V. Mitra, Jr., could be treading on dangerous or "futile" grounds as they seem to ignore the fact that the people themselves in the region had voted down the idea of autonomy in a plebiscite held on April 17, 1977 pursuant to the Tripoli Agreement signed by President Ferdinand E. Marcos and Libyan President Muammar Al Ghaddafi a year earlier or on March 19, 1976.

Based on that document, Marcos, on March 25, 1977 issued Proclamation No. 1628 declaring autonomy in the Southern Philippines, and calling for the holding of a referendum in the 13 provinces specified in the Tripoli Agreement.

The 13 provinces are Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur in Region IX; Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Region XII; Palawan in Region IV; and, Davao del Sur and South Cotabato in Region XI. All the cities in said provinces are included.



TAMANO

AUTONOMY

In that referendum of 1977, the Marcos government suffered a devastating, and humuliating defeat as the region's electorate comprised of 5.4 million Christians to only 3.38 million Muslims voted a resounding "NO" to 9 out of 10 questions, with the "YES" votes getting only a pitiful ONE TENTH OF ONE PERCENT (.01%) of the NO votes.

The principal questions propounded were:

1. "There is a proposal that the 13 provinces will be finally organized into a single region of the autonomy. Do you approve such a proposal?" "Only 38,584 voters voted "YES" to the 2,388,651 "NO" votes.

2. "There is a proposal that the administrative system in the area of autonomy will be ruled or controlled by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) with full and complete authority. Do you approve such a proposal?" "NO" - 2,743,253; "YES" only 38,938.

3. "There is a proposal that the region of autonomy will have its own flag, official language and seal separate and distinct from those of the national government. Do you approve such a proposal?" Again, a resounding "NO" with 2,742,264 votes and, "YES", 39,123.

All other questions touching the subject, were decisively voted down, hence. forcefully rejected. They were on the issues like having a Supreme Court and Court of Appeals for the region; power of general legislation including taxation; a separate army or security force outside the supervision and control of the

READ NEXT PAGE !

Political experts say the negative vote in the 1977 Plebiscite may be repeated in next month's poll....

REBELS in Mindanao are visibly belligerent during the past weeks and there have been reports that a war could break out to resume their secessionist movement that has been going on for the last 25 years.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), with the MNLF head, Nur Misuari, as Commander-in-Chief; and, exclusion from the control by the Commission on Audit of autonomous region funds.

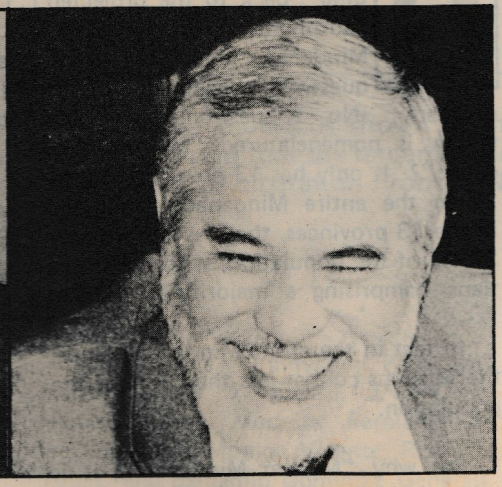
The only exception overwhelmingly approved in that 1977 referendum was the proposal to create a regional assembly (legislature) and the creation of an administrative system that would be under the general supervision and control of the national government of the Philippines pursuant to the proposal of the then Batasang Bayan on February 14, 1977.

With the current projected referendum of the 1989 organic act, November 19, next month, the MNLF has threatened to create big trouble in the region just to derail retification of the said law already signed by President Corazon C. Aquino last August 1st, this year.

Both Gonzales and Mitra, on the other hand, are dangling so-called "bounties" that would reportedly accrue to the proposed autonomous region but local government officials there claim that if autonomy is finally granted, the LGUs (local government units) would be crippled financially, and thus, suffer economic dislocations.

They claimed there would then be four (4) government agencies collecting taxes from the people: 1) the national government; 2) regional government; 3) city or municipal governments; and 4) the barangay governments. The officials did not discount the strong possibility of "underground" or "progressive" taxes.

GONZALES



MITRA

TRIPOLI AGREEMENT

The big question now is, why is the MNLF violently against the organic or Republic Act 6734 when in the past this Muslim group had even spearheaded formation of autonomy for Mindanao? What made them change their stand?

The MNLF, however, now claims that R.A. 6734 "does not conform with the provisions of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement." But, how and why is still uncertain.

The Tripoli Agreement took too much time to formulate with lots of Filipino officials including the Marcoses, traipsing all over the world just to give in to demands that it be implemented. It took all of 12 years of conferences and

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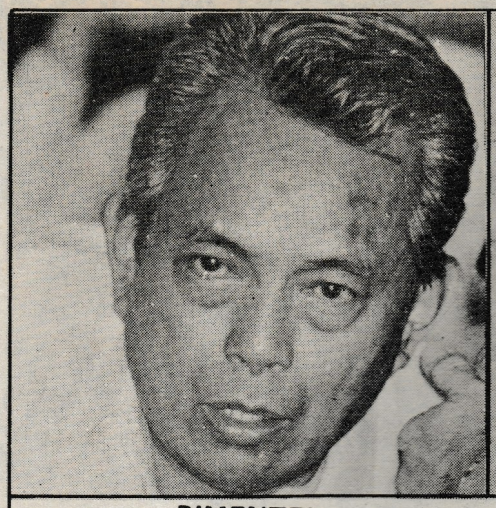


PIMENTEL

MISUARI

Muslims comprise 15% of Mindanao's population... Why then nomenclatured 'Muslim Mindanao?'

meeting with MNLF leaders and foreign (mostly Middle East) dignitaries backing the MNLF, from 1972 to 1985 to perfect the Agreement and its methodologies for its implementation.

The countries visited (and this must have cost the ailing, financially srapped Philippine government quite a fabulous sum) were Jeddah and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Benghazi, Libya; Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia; Aswan, Alexandria, and Cairo, Egypt; Oran and Algiers, Alegria; Carthage, Tunisia; Nairobi, Kenya; Istanbul, Turkey;

Colombo, Sri Lanka; Casablanca and Rabat, Morroco; Lima, Peru; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Niamey, Niger; Liberville, Gabon; Dakar, Senegal; Sanaa, Yemen; Valetta, Malta; and, London, Paris, and New York.

Of course, conferences between Misuari and some members of the Quadripartite Ministerial Commission of the Islamic Conference were also held in the Philippines, particularly in Manila and Zamboanga City.

"Were all these troubles, time, efforts, and money worth it?" some knowledgeable quarters have asked.

We cannot be sure whether all these were plain gimmickry to appease the Filipino Muslims (whose armed elements were then on the rampage) or just to "put one over them", considering - as one Mindanao solon, Senator Aquilino Pimentel - has said, "the Tripoli Agreement was 'very vague' - *"malabo."*

There are a lot of issues to be " discussed", "determined later", and, "to be fixed later" says Senator Pimentel who may be wondering why the educated, hence, learned Muslim dignitaries who were behind (how far behind?) Misuari did not comprehend nor realize that the very shrewd Marcos and his officials were just playing games with them.

In fact, a newspaper - *The Republic* - said in 1985, that from the inception of the Tripoli Agreement, "the government had no intention of fulfilling its commitment to an international agreement."

So, after all, it was *"pangloloko"* (trick) all the time? Misuari, a former professor of the University of the Philippines, could and should have discerned this all the time or long ago, but he did not. Why?

Going back to the projected "autonomy" of "Muslim" Mindanao, there are some questions boggling the minds of many. No. 1 question is why the region is nomenclatured "Muslim Mindanao"? It only has 13 provinces out of 22 in the entire Mindanao island, and in the 13 provinces, the Muslims are only 37.1% of the population, with the Christians comprising a majority of 62.9%.

In fact in the entire Mindanao islands, the Muslims consist less than 15% of the population.

So, why "Muslim Mindanao"?, it is asked. Obviously, the term is a gross misnomer and can stand correction and Congress can cure this defect (Sec. 1, Art. I, R. A. 6734).

Another factor that defies imagination is why Palawan is to be or has been included in the projected autonomous region.

Geographically, Palawan is a part of the Southern Tagalog, Region (IV) with a very insignificant number of Muslims found only in the southernmost fringes of the island.

Maybe, the inclusion of Palawan and the other provinces of Southern Davao and South Cotabato was done by the RP framers of the Tripoli Agreement due to the then existing Mindanao-Sulu-Palawan (minsupala) an organization or aggrupation of local government officials in those places.

The sad fact, however, is that the Philippine delegates to the Tripoli conference consented to the inclusion of the above-mentioned provinces despite their (the provinces) having been already divided into regions.

The Philippine delegates to Tripoli were the late Defense Secretary Manuel Barbero, Ambassadors Liningding Pangandaman and Pacifico A. Castro, Regional Commissioner Simeon Datumanong, SPDA Administrator Abdul Karim Sidiri, and General Eduardo Ermita.

After the 1977 plebiscite, the three

provinces were excluded from the proposed autonomous region because Davao del Sur, South Cotabato; and, Palawan are under Regions XI and IV, respectively.

What is vexing in certain quarters is why these provinces were again included in the proposed autonomous region under the 1989 organic act.

But, ultimately, these provinces may be excluded from the so-called "Muslim Mindanao" autonomous region. Their inhabitants are predominantly Christian and it is highly doubtful whether they will ratify the organic act, and if they don't they will be out of the autonomous region.

"x x x only the provinces and cities voting favorably in such plebiscite shall be included in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The provinces and cities which in the plebiscite do not vote for inclusion in the Autonomous Region shall remain in the existing administrative regiohs x x x " (Sec. 13, Art. XVIII, R. A. 6734).

However, the President may, by administrative determination, merge the existing regions, according to the same provisions.

On the other hand, in the 1977 Mindanao referendum during which the people voted a resounding "NO" to self-government as called for in the much-ballyhooed Tripoli Agreement which, by the way, was not supposed to be fully implemented anyway, may be repeated in next month's Mindanao political exercise, given the existing political, social, and economic considerations.

In all instances, therefore the government and the LDP would do well to consider the temper, past political events of the people as insinuated by Senator Tamano and other Mindanao political leaders, before campaigning all-out for a "Yes" for an unwanted Autonomous Muslim Mindanao. Clearly, both Muslims and the MNLF, and in all probability, their Christian brothers do not want this, too.

RP officials in the events leading to, and related events after the Tripoli Agreement signing included Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, Secretaries Alejandro Melchor, Francisco Tatad, Juan Ponce Enrile, Ronaldo Puno, Blas Ople, Cesar Virata, Jose Rono, Jose Abad Santos, and Jose D. Ingles;

Ambassadors Liningding Pangandaman, Pacifico A. Castro, J.V. Cruz, Narciso Reyes, Modesto Farolan, Rafael Gonzales, Monico Vicente, Rodolfo Tupas, and Benjamin Domingo; Generals Fidel Ramos, Mamarinta Lao, and, Paciencio Magtibay;

Solicitor-General Estelito Mendoza, Justice Legal Counsel Minerva Reyes, Admiral Romulo Espaldon, legal and administrative luminaries Mauro Baradi, Simeon Datumanong, Pedro Angara-Aragon, Nur Ututalum, Mauyag Tamano, Hashim Salamat, Felipe Mabilangan, Jr., and Messrs. Abdul Khayer Alonto, and Dr. Loong. PR

Non-muslim provinces have already voiced their rejection to be lumped into what the new organic act intends to achieve....

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF MINDANAO
B 91113470 F
UNITY IN DIVERSITY
OFFICIAL CURRENCY OF THE FRM AS PROPOSED BY THE MINDANAO INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT
ONE DOLLAR

SIDE A

SIDE B

MINDANAO money is shown in the two facsimiles above... It has been boldly reported that the underground currency is being used by secessionist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in Southern Philippines.

RP-US BASES TREATY

Platt says US is ready to pull out even as Washington is confident to lick growing nationalism...

SALONGA PLATT

Taken together, Clark and Subic bases are absolutely essential for maintaining an effective United States military presence in the Western Pacific.

Clark, for instance, is the largest military installation outside the continental United States. It is the headquarters of the U.S. 13th Air Force and occupies more than 54,000 hectares.

Subic Naval Base, the more essential of the two installations, is the main supply base of the Seventh Fleet. It is capable of supporting combat operations simultaneously for several carrier battle groups. It has the most extensive ship-repair shops west of Hawaii. It also employs a highly skilled Filipino labor force that would be difficult to find elsewhere in the region. The 22 giant storage tanks on the U.S. naval base make it the largest depot for petroleum products in the world.

By Danny Gutierrez
Asia-Pacific REVIEW
& ELCOREPORTS

These two mammoth American installations sit at the southwest edge of the Pacific Ocean. They are ideally located for projecting U.S. strength into the South China Sea and the vital sea lanes that funnel oil from the Middle East to Japan. They also provide an effective counterweight to the rapid Soviet naval buildup at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam.

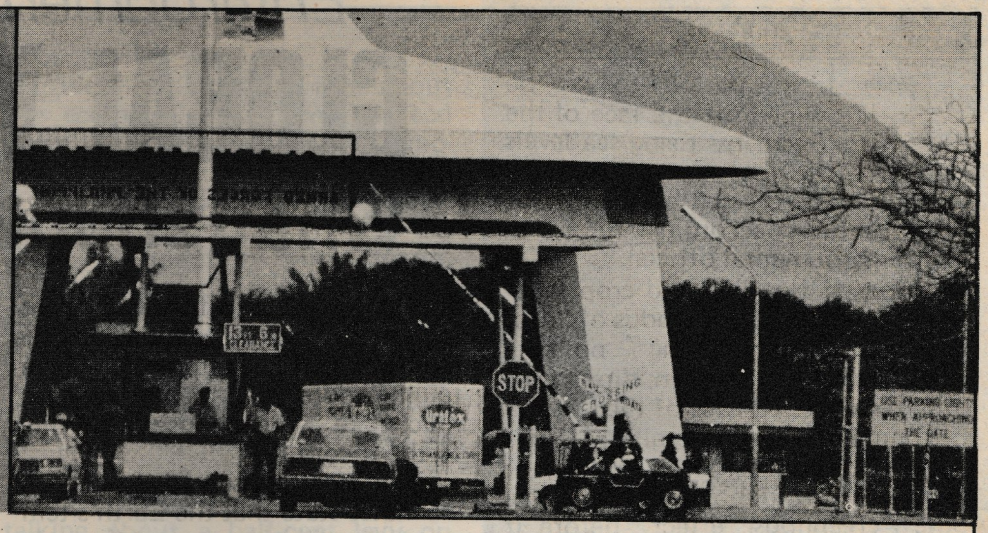
The loss of these two bases could alter the balance of power in the Pacific, jeopardize billions of dollars of American trade, shake the confidence of China and Japan and possibly even loosen their ties to the West. If the United States were forced out of the Philippines, says Rear Admiral Lewis Chatham, commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet battle force, it would be tantamount to "abdicating the South China Sea to the Soviets."

But there are more than economic and logical considerations to keep the bases in the Philippines. To put it squarely, top U.S. officials think that any pullout from Clark and Subic would probably rank with the British retreat from Suez as a symbol of a humiliating foreign-policy setback. There is little doubt that such a move would be regarded in Asia as a shameful American retreat.

The growing tide of Filipino nationalism, however is threatening the continued existence of these two American facilities. The nationalists insist the Section 25 Article XVIII of the Constitution clearly states that after the expiration in 1991 of the Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America concerning Military Bases, foreign military bases troops or facilities shall not be allowed in the Philippines except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate and when the Congress so requires, ratified by a majority of the votes cast by the people in a national referendum held for that purpose, and recognized as a treaty by the other contracting party.

READ PAGE 11/REVIEW

The Military Bases Agreement (MBA) is considered expired on September 17, 1991 to prevent automatic extension of the terms of the treaty.



Senate President Jovito R. Salonga has field a resolution calling on President Aquino to immediately inform the Americans of the expiration of the bases agreement in 1991. The resolution, however, is still pending in the Senate. But Resolution No. 45, introduced by television personality Sen. Orlando S. Mercado, was adopted by the Senate on November 28, 1988. This resolution urges the President of the Philippines to serve notice, through the Department of Foreign Affairs, to the government of the United States of America as soon as possible of the intent and understanding of the Philippines that the Military Bases Agreement is considered expired as of September 17, 1991 in order to forestall an automatic extension of the terms thereof. A total of 16 other similar resolutions and four bills have been filed in the Senate.

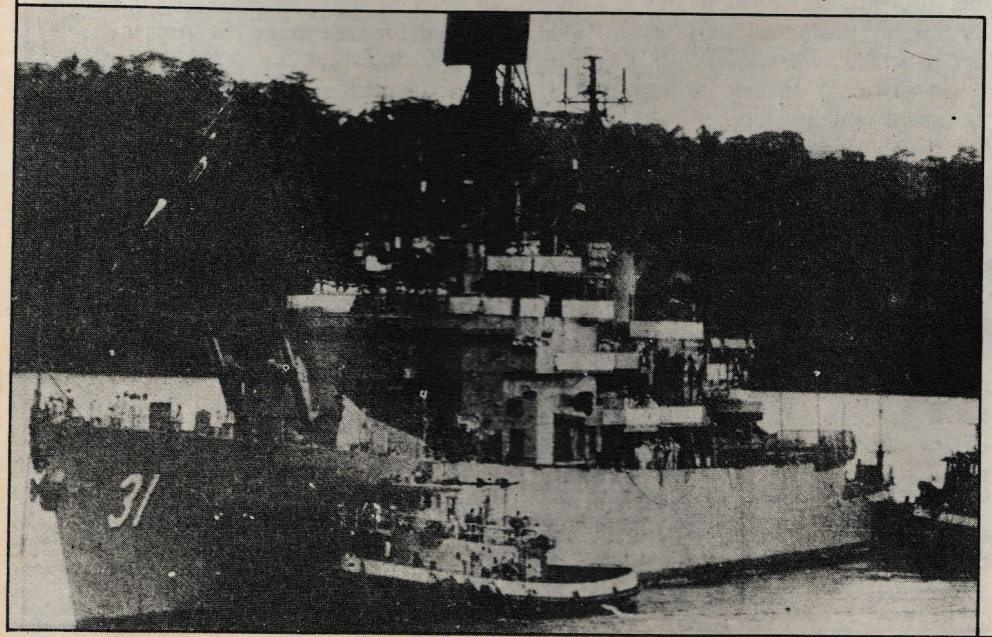
With the Senate as the sole treaty ratifying Body in the Congress of the Philippines, the future of the bases beyond 1991 indeed seems bleak. "If Ambassador Nicholas Platt boasted that they can leave within one year, then they must not be given more than that time to dismantle the bases after the expiration of the agreement in 1991" says Senate President Salonga.

Philippine Congress is pushing a referendum to decide on whether or not the base treaty will be re-extended. But many legal minds describe the move as "misreading of the basic fundamental law.

House of Representatives Speaker Ramon V. Mitra, however, urges a "short-term retention" or slow phaseout of the U.S. military bases. He says the issue of continued stay of the US bases in the country should be decided by the people in a referendum or consultation. But Commissioner Jose N. Nolledo, one of the framers of the Constitution, assails this stand as a "misreading" of the Constitution.

Com. Nolledo says the position taken by Salonga, who is supported by a majority of the senators, is correct because it is in accordance with constitutional, moral and legal grounds. "The members of the Senate come from different regions of our country, are known for their statesmanship and therefore, they represent the national interests, far beyond the narrow and local interests that the members of the House represents," Nolledo added.

Despite President Aquino's agreement to a request of US President George Bush to start negotiations on the future of the U.S. bases in the Philippines on December, the fate of Clark and Subic beyond 1991 remains uncertain. "I am confident that we will find a mutually acceptable agreement on the future of our facilities here in the Philippines" US Vice-President Dan Quayle said. But according to President Aquino the negotiations on the future of the U.S. bases scheduled in December "may or may not lead to a new bases agreement." PR



FOCUS

Environmental Disaster

GLOBAL WARMING

What should be done...

Entire nations could be wiped off the face of the Earth by rising sea levels if the global warming trend is not reversed by the end of the century, according to a top UN environmental official.

Coastal flooding and crop failures would create an exodus of "eco-refugees" threatening political chaos, said Noel Brown, director of the New York office of the UN Environment Program, called UNEP.

Governments have a "10-year window" of opportunity to solve the "greenhouse effect" before it passes beyond human control, said Brown.

"Nature will be far more Hobbesian — 'poor, nasty, and brutish" in the next century if politicians fail to meet the challenge, Brown said.

As the warming melts polar ice-caps ocean levels will rise by up to one meter, enough to cover the Maldvises, Seychelles, and other low-lying island nations, said Brown.

Coastal regions will be inundated; one-sixth of Bangladesh could be flooded, displacing a fourth of its 90 million people. A fifth of Egypt's arable land in the Nile Delta would be flooded, cutting off its food supply, according to a joint UNEP and US Environmental Protection Agency study.

"Ecological refugees will become a major concern, and what's worse is you may find that people can move to drier ground, but the soils and the natural resources may not support life. Africa doesn't have to worry about land, but would you want to live in the Sahara?" he asked.

UNEP estimates it would cost the United States at least $100 billion to protect its east coast alone.

Shifting climate patterns would bring back "Dust Bowl" conditions of the 1930s to Canadian and US wheatlands, while the Soviet Union could reap bumper crops if it adapts its agriculture in time, according to a study by UNEP and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analaysis.

Man's use of fossil fuels and the burning of the rain forests is releasing excess carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The atmosphere is retaining more heat than it radiates, much like a greenhouse, according to the theory.

The most conservative scientific estimates state that the Earth's temperature will rise one to four degrees centigrade in the next 30 years, according to Brown.

The difference in temperature may seen slight, he said, but the planet is only five degrees centigrade warmer today when it was during the 8,000-year Ice Age that ended 10,000 years ago.

"During the last 100 years, global temperatures have increased about 0.7 degrees centigrade. We fear that if present trends continue, we might be changing it by about one degree per decade in an open-ended process. .

"If that does occur, the question is will be able to reverse the process in time? We say that within the next 10 years, given the present loads that the atmosphere has to bear, we have an opportunity to start the stabilizing process," said Brown.

Even the most conservative scientists "already tell us there's nothing we can do now to stop a two-degree centigrade change," or about three degrees Fahrenheit, he said.

"Anything beyond that, and we have to start thinking about the significant rise of the sea levels.. we

SIDEBAR

Over and above the long known effects of deforestation are the more unsettling consequences of global warming that are just coming to light as a result of recent scientific findings.

While the burning of forests had been associated for some time now with flooding, drought, soil erosion and siltation, its link to the "greenhouse effect" was not generally understood until scientists began releasing an astonishing array of facts and figures. Since carbon dioxide has been identified as the main culprit in the buildup of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that trap solar heat and warm the Earth, the presence of carbon in trees is of great importance.

Now the United Nations Environment Program (Unep) blames burning of forests for up to 25% of the carbon dioxide emissions which reinforce the greenhouse heat trap each year. The 'State of the World 1989' a Worldwatch Institute annual report, said that humanity added 5.5 billion tons of carbon to the atmosphere in 1988 through fossil fuel combustion and another 0.4 billion to 2.5 billion tons through deforestation.

Serious threat

The report indicated that if recent worldwide consumption growth rates of about 3% continue, fossil fuels could contribute 10 billion tons of new carbon annually in the year 2010. At the same time, deforestation in the Amazon and other tropical countries is accelerating to frighteningly rapid rates.

This is the reason the Worldwatch Institute considers the emergence of carbon dioxide-induced climatic change the most threatening environmental problem of modern times. The biggest threats it poses are the adverse effects on forestry and agriculture, and the rise in sea level which could wipe out low-lying coastal areas and small islands worldwide.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that the breakdown of traditional shifting cultivation patterns is responsible for 70% of closed forest clearing in tropical Africa, nearly 50%

can expect more ferocious storms, hurricanes, wind shear, dust erosion," said Brown.

While there is time to act, said Brown, there is no time to waste.

"It took us 10 years to get the ozone treaty into effect" by 1989, cutting flourocarbon emissions into the air, Brown noted. The ozone layers filters out harmful ultraviolet radiation.

UNEP is working toward forming a scientific plan of action by the end of 1990, and the adoption of a global climate treaty by 1992. In May, delegates from 103 nations met in Nairobi, Kenya, and decided to open negotiations on the treaty next year.

The climate treaty would call upon nations to reduce the use of fossil fuels, cut the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses such as methane and fluorocarbons, and preserve the rain forests.

"We have no clear idea about the ecological minimum of green space that the planet needs to function effectively. What we do know is that we are destroying the tropical rain forest at the rate of 50 acres a minute," said Brown.

Each acre of rain forest can store 100 tons of carbon dioxide and reprocess it into oxygen.

Brown suggested that compensating Brazil, Indonesia and Kenya for preserving rain forests may be necessary.

The European Community is talking about a half-cent levy on each kilowatt-hour of fossil fuels raise $55 million a year to protect the rain forests, and perhaps there could be other direct subsidies, he said.

The treaty could call for improved energy efficiency increasing conservation, and for developed nations to transfer technology to

Third World countries to help them save energy and cut greenhouse gas emissions, said Brown.

Brown is UNEP's top official in New York. The agency is based in Nairobi, where its executive director, Dr. Mostaphia K. Tolba, has issued similar warnings. Pr

Forest-clearing and burning since 1860 has contributed 180 billion tons of carbon.

in tropical Asia, and 35% in tropical America.

Because forests play a crucial role in the global cycling of carbon dioxide, their destruction counts significantly in the heating up of the earth. The earth's vegetation and soil hold some 2,000 billion tons of carbon roughly triple the amount stored in the atmosphere.

When trees are cleared or harvested, the carbon they contain, as well as some of the carbon in the underlying soil, is oxidized and released to the air, adding to the atmospheric store of carbon dioxide. This release occurs rapidly if the trees are burned, but slowly if they decay naturally.

It is estimated that since 1860, forest clearing has contributed some 90 to 180 billion tons of carbon to the atmosphere, compared with 150 to 190 billion tons from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas. The annual release of carbon from the loss of forests probably exceeded that from fossil fuels until about mid-century, when the pace of industrialization and the use of oil rose markedly.

By then, most clearing for agriculture in North America and Europe had ceased and the forested area in those regions became fairly stabilized. Today the bulk of carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere by land use changes comes from the tropics.

The reason for this is that while in the developed countries there is now a balance between wood extraction and tree growth, in the poor tropical countries forests are burned and cleared at a much faster rate than they are restored. Hence, the enormous release of carbon from wood into the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide after carbon is oxidized.

The problem of forest destruction then in tropical countries has gained an other dimension — global warming — in addition to the list of impacts more popularly understood today. The emission of carbon dioxide into the air impacts on global climate which in turn impacts on forests. One effect on forests is the shift in the tree line to the north by 100 kilometers for every degree Celsius rise in temperature. Other consequences include longer growing periods for trees, but possible exposure to more pests and diseases owing to expected humid or muggy conditions.

It does not require stretching the imagination to grasp the full meaning of the emerging concern for global warming which is expected to hit poor tropical countries hardest. As Unep points out, forest destruction — usually for agriculture — consitutes a double threat.

Growing trees absorb and "fix" carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Every destroyed tree not only releases carbon into the air, but leaves fewer natural "sponges" to absorb carbon dioxide. In effect, the essential process of photosynthesis during which leaves of trees absorb carbon dioxide and water which they convert to carbohydrates in the presence of sunlight is being determined.

In the tropics and subtropics, within 35 degrees north and south, where most developing countries lie, more extreme changes of climate patterns are predicted. Changing rainfall patterns together with high temperatures, according to Unep, would adversely affect agriculture and ecosystems and threaten the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people. It said for many developing countries, these effects accompany two other trends — a doubling of population and the loss through degradation of up to one-sixth of the world's potential cropland. Pr

Melbourne

Olympic Games

Australians are gathering momentum in the international middle-distance race to win the 1990 Olympic Games.

Melbourne, the nation's second-largest city, has won wide community and corporate support for its campaign to bring the Games to the southern hemisphere for only the second time.

Melbourne was host to the 1956 Olympics, remembered as the "friendly Games". A 17-year-old Melbourne apprentice carpenter, John Wing, suggested that Olympians should mingle in the farewell ceremony, instead of marching by nation. The moving finale became an Olympic custom.

PRESIDENT CORY Aquino *(in above file photo)* **gives final instructions to members of the Philippine Olympic team to Seoul last year at Malacanang Palace where the athletic delegation paid a courtesy call.** *Right photo* **appears in deep prayer for a successful participation in the global sport joust.**

Melbourne's first opportunity to present its case to the full International Olympic Committee comes at the committee's 95th session, in Puerto Rico from August 28 to September 1. The venue for the 1996 Olympics will be decided at the IOC meeting in Tokyo in September 1990.

Melbourne's team goes to Puerto Rico confident of its preparations to date.

The chief executive of the Melbourne Olympic Candidature, Mr. Max Roger, will speak for a city of almost three million people with three-quarters of the Olympic facilities already used by sports-loving Australians.

For example, the famous Melbourne Cricket Ground has been significantly upgraded since Emil Zatopek, Vladimir Kuts, Betty Cuthbert and others won gold medals there in 1956. Immediately after an expected 100,000 people come to this year's grand final of the Victorian Football League in September, construction will begin on a $100 million replacement of the southern stand to lift stadium capacity to 110,000 and add more Olympic facilities.

Sports fans have also welcomed the recently completed $70 million National Tennis Centre near the Melbourne Cricket Ground, in parkland adjoining central Melbourne. Home of the Australian Open, one of four grand-slam events, the centre's 300 tonne sliding roof offers wet-weather protection and makes it an ideal entertainment centre with up to 16,000 seats. It would be used for tennis and gymnastics.

Mr. Roger can demonstrate widespread Australian enthusiasm for the Games. More than 75 corporations and institutions have contributed $100,000 each towards the $20 million bid; public-

opinion polls show 86 per cent support, and more than 50,000 Australians have already registered as volunteer assistants.

Melbourne, a major tourism centre, welcomed many of the 2:25 million international visitors who came to Australia during last year's bicentennial celebrations. Melbourne Airport operates 24 hours a day and has a freeway link to the central city. Melbourne is experiencing an unprecedented hotel-construction boom, with 18 new three-and four-star hotels (3860 rooms) due for completion in the early 1990s, bringing the number of residential hotel rooms of three-star quality and above to 10,000.

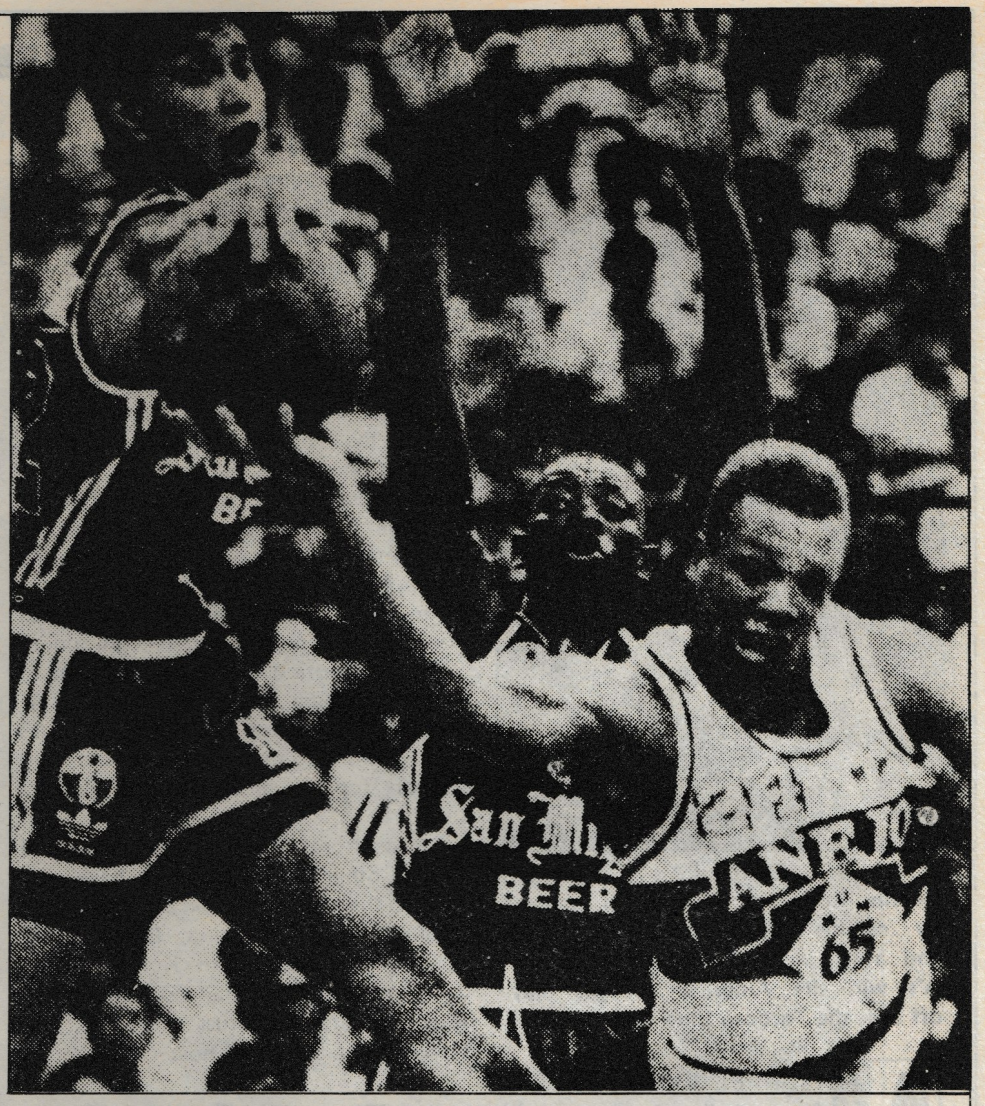
"Melbourne's convenience is one of its drawcards, "Mr. Roger emphasises. "All but three venues [equestrian/archery, rowing and baseball] are within six kilometres of the central city. There's a lot of enthusiasm for the plan to build an Olympic village for 17,000 athletes and a media centre and media village for 500 people on recycled dockland just six blocks from the Town Hall and no more than 40 minutes from the most distant venue."

Major sports facilities to be built are the Albert Park sports complex to consolidate existing facilities for badminton, basketball, swimming, table tennis and volleyball, and a new velodrome at Royal Melbourne Showgrounds.

Melbourne enjoys a worldwide reputation as a sports city. From the Australian Open tennis to international golf, from the Melbourne Cup horse race, which effectively stops the nation for three minutes in November, to holding the record for the world's largest cricket crowd. "We could guarantee a sellout of seats right now, "Mr Roger says.

This love of sport is celebrated in the Australian Gallery of Sport, a national museum which flanks to entrance to the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Mementoes from the 1956 Olympics are prominent.

Max Roger cites other factors that favour Melbourne's case: "One example - there's a big plus in our afternoon events making prime-time evening television for some of the largest northern-hemisphere audiences, notably eastern USA.



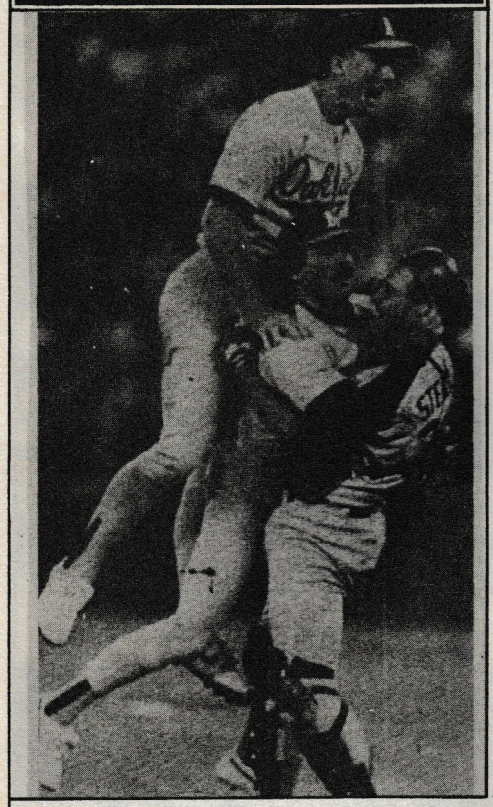
PBA IMPORTS battle for the rebound in one of the American-flavored PBA Conference matches at the ULTRA recently. Purefoods is the front-running team in the current 6-team conference.

"Melbourne is also a remarkably cosmopolitan city, home to people from 140 nations, and Games visitors will be able to enjoy diverse cultural experiences ranging from the attractions of the $240 million Victorian Arts Centre to a startling choice of world cuisines. Visitors able to stay longer will find surf beaches, mountains, wineries, rich farmland and even remote country with a hint of the Outback only a few hours' drive away.

"In summary., we can show existing sports venues among the world's best, enthusiastic local support, a safe environment, and innovative plans for new facilities and accommodation that will benefit Australians when the Games are a pleasant memory.

"We've already been able to show some IOC delegates Melbourne's existing venues and the setting for the docklands redevelopment. Other delegates will be checking firsthand in coming months during major international events like the grand final, Melbourne Cup and Australian Open tennis. Our own people have also been travelling overseas to explore Melbourne's proposals with IOC delegates, other international sports figures and other interested parties.

"Australia, one of only three nations to have competed in every modern Olympics, is working to give another 'friendly Games' to the world." PR



TORONTO – Oakland A's relief pitcher Dennis Eckersley (center) is hugged by catcher Terry Steinback (right) and a leaping Mark Mc Gwire as the A's win the American League play off over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Multi-nation boxing tilt

Manila will host a multi-nation boxing tilt on November 22-29 at the Ninoy Aquino stadium with five of the major superpowers sending their boxers for the First Mayor's Cup International Invitational boxing championship.

Manila Mayor Mel Lopez announced the boxing spectacle this week following his arrival from Moscow where he received the confirmation of the participation in the Manila slugfest of the powerhouse nations in amateur boxing.

Lopez, who is also the president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (ABAP), said he was happy to note that European and Latin American countries are now giving recognition to "our contribution to the development of amateur boxing this part of Asia." He said boxing leaders in those countries had promised their participation and support for the success of the Mayor's Cup.

Aside from the US, USSR, GDR and PROC, other countries which have confirmed their participation in the Manila slugfest include Bulgaria, Brazil, Mongolia, North and South Korea, Ghana, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Nepal and Brunei Darrussalam.

Lopez said that as host of the multi-nation event, "We are entitled to field in three teams' which would come from the winners of the coming national seniors and juniors open boxing championship set Oct. 22-27 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

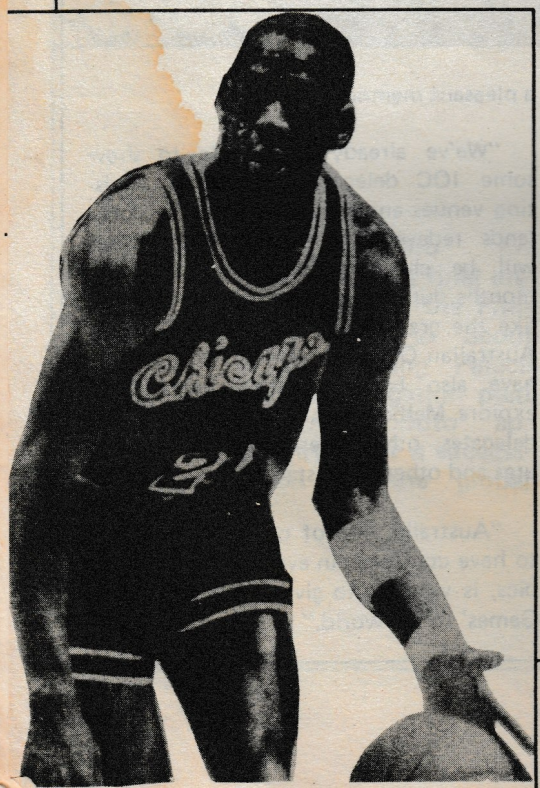
ABAP executives vice-president Manny Lopez, who was appointed head of the organizing committee head, meanwhile said that all members of the national training pool, including Seoul Olympic bronze medalist Leopoldo Serrantes, Leopoldo Cantancio and 15th Southeast Asia Games gold medalists Isidro Vicera, Arlo Chavez and Raymundo Suico will participate in the competition and represent their respective mother units in the slugfest.

"We don't seed our boxers to international competition," the young Lopez said. "We want to have the best and we could pinpoint them through the open tournament where all aspiring boxers nationwide are given a chance to prove their worth."

He confirmed that all entries from both the provinces and Metro Manila had been already submitted to ABAP, saying, the boxing tilt is all set for a pre-yuletide show.

Bride for Jordan

MICHAEL JORDAN, the Chicago Bulls star who would always make things happen for his advantage in the court, breached a 1990 wedding date by forcing it prematurely in a pre-dawn ceremony at the Little White Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas on September 9.



The 26-year old Jordan surrendered his bachelorship to Juanita Vanoy, 30, a long-time fiancee. Media reports filed by Asia-Pacific REVIEW correspondent Dolphy Tabaldo described the wedding as swift and casual and quoted the chapel's owner Charlotte Richards as confirming the ceremonial rites.

Jordan was listed as a resident of Highland Park, Illinois in a license taken out by the couple from the Clark County Marriage License bureau. Vanoy registered as a Chicago native. They had a regular ceremony and everything was done in very nice taste, according to Richards.

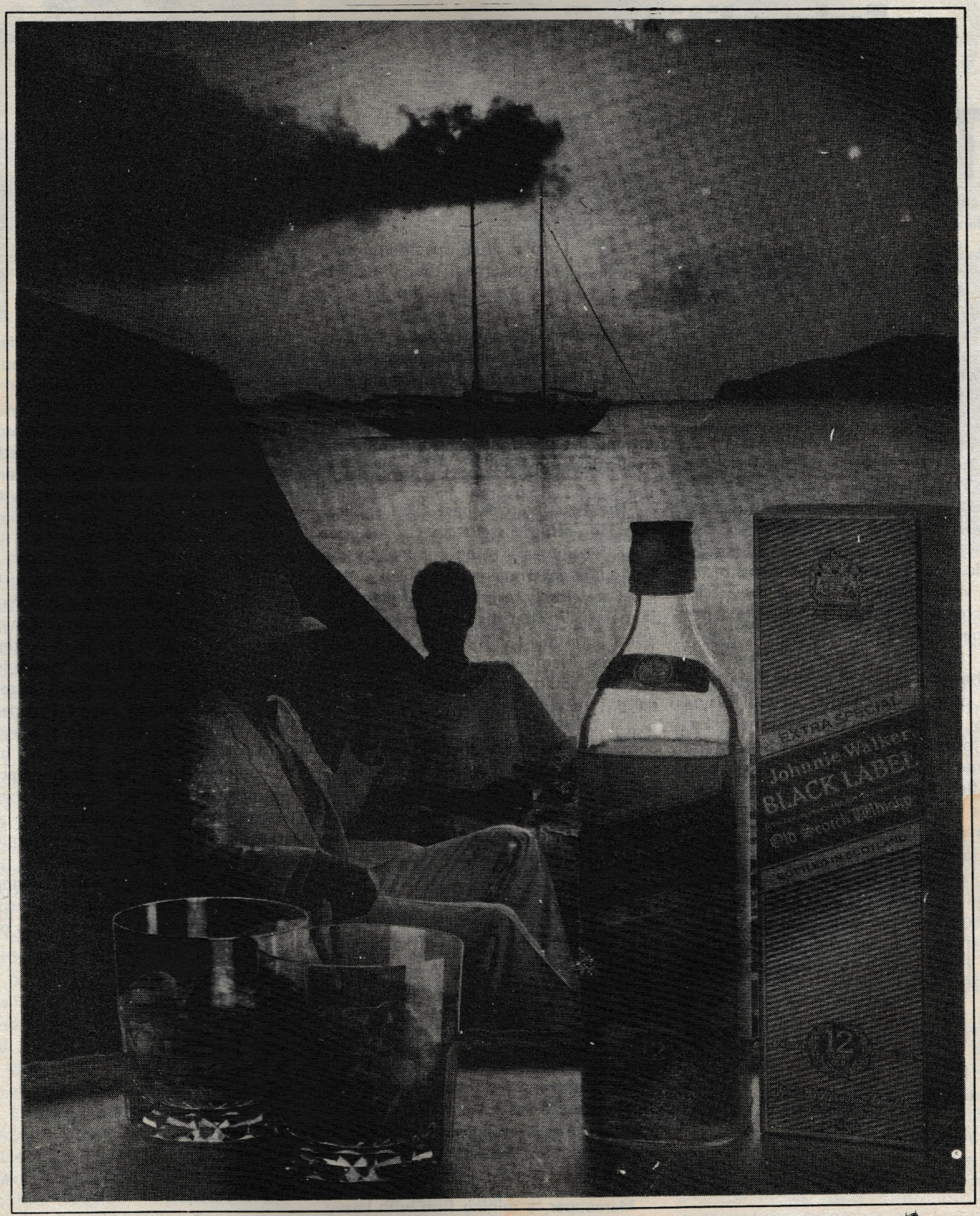
According to an acolyte, the ceremony was rather strange if not eerie. The rites began at 3:30 a.m. when most people are still fast asleep. Juanita was jeans-clad instead of the traditional white gown. So did Jordan who said I do in loafers with no socks.

Two bridesmaids came for Juanita. One arrived in skirt and the other in jeans, the alter boy intimated. Jordan had two groomsmen, both showing up in shorts. They wore Nikes, a shoes brand promoted by the cage star in television commercial.

The Jordans, of course are parents of a 10-month-old son Jeffrey Michael, born last November at a Chicago hospital. Juanita had often been described as Jordan's on-again, off-again girlfriend. Jordan was once romantically linked to actress Robin Givens of Mike Tyson fame.

The Givens fling was widely reported and while it was short-lived, Jordan detested the undue publicity.

THE LABEL OF ACHIEVEMENT



BLACK LABEL COMMANDS MORE RESPECT

· 12 YEAR OLD ·

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Extradition Treaty

The Extradition Treaty which is scheduled to be signed by Philippine President Corazon Aquino and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on November 6 suddenly became insignificant. After an early heavy publicity, the treaty-signing is now relegated to a minor chore when Mrs. Aquino hits Canada. Even Press Secretary Adolf Azcuna spoke less about it during pre-departure press briefings at Malacanan (presidential palace). He nodded with a dry smile when one broadcast journalist inquired if the signing would push through....

To my mind, there are three reasons that make the treaty less spectacle as part of the state visit fireworks. First, the presidential trip -- as widely ballyhooed -- is a business journey. And understandably, political and diplomatic ingredients of the state visit should not upstage the economic and trade aspects of the President's talking points.

The second reason is that there is no clear urgency for having an extradition treaty between the two countries. Except for two fugitives, Canada is not a traditional haven for Filipino criminals who have fled Manila. Under clear circumstances, a treaty with the United States is much more needed. The arm of Philippine laws couldn't reach Americans who have fled to the US after they had committed felonious acts in Manila. Because we can't extradite Americans using territoriality as shield for criminal prosecution their Filipino victims remain justiciably shortchanged.

The third reason is partly expounded in the foregoing. And I suspect that the White House could have a hand in the anemic publicity for the RP-Canada Extradition Treaty for fear that public opinion might bring up the question of why until now Washington and Manila haven't gotten one such pact.

Publicizing the treaty-signing rites in Ottawa next week, as it were, would amplify the lack of it under US-Philippine relations. It appears that the US is not inclined to enter into such a treaty even in the face of popular request from the Philippine side to have one.

Insofar as its specific purpose is concerned, the RP-Canada pact has a bleak flipside. It is reportedly aimed at bringing back Dewey Dee and Rodolfo Pacificador -- both facing criminal prosecution in Manila. Dee is accused of defrauding Filipino businessmen of up to $800 million in 1981, while Pacificador is wanted for the murder of former Antique Governor Evelio Javier in 1986.

The two fugitives have filed applications for refugee status in Canada, but their petitions are being opposed by the Philippine government. Canadian authorities are closely reviewing their petitions. If their claim that they are victims of political harassment in Manila is upheld and they are eventually granted refugee status, they could not be brought home under the treaty.

Extradition treaty does not cover political refugee cases. What's more, Dee is now a holder of a Costa Rican passport and is therefore out of Philippine jurisdiction at the moment, according to consular authorities in Canada.

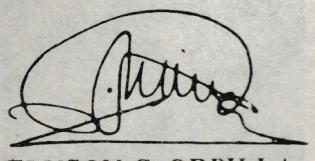
Overall, the treaty, like any executive pact, needs ratifications by the legislatures of both countries an official act required to make the treaty enforceable. Which means that the mere signing of the pact on November 6 falls short of the authority to command courts for the arrest and eventual delivery of the fugitives to Manila.

Marcopper

Marcopper, a mining firm with heavy Canadian exposure, should cash in on the business talks between Filipino and Canadian officials. Marcopper, whose unpaid

taxes run to millions of pesos, is on the brink of financial collapse. Under the Marcos regime, the miningfirm has been decreed to enjoy tax-free operation. But the liberal scheme was reportedly withdrawn when the new administration took over, a development that is likened to a pall of gloom which descended on the new Marcopper management led by Canadianas.

I overheard that during President Aquino's visit to France, a French heavy machineries supplier cashed in on the "financial talk.. between the Filipino leader and French President Francois Mitterand. While it was unclear how the owner-manager of the French outfit managed to write off its financial obligations in the Philippines, it was reportedly clear that the private financial obligation became part of the special concession for a soft French loan to the Aquino government. In other words, the writeoff was pre-requisite of the loan approval, an unpopular but practical scheme Marcopper must pull off if it wants to continue with its operation in the Philippines. ●

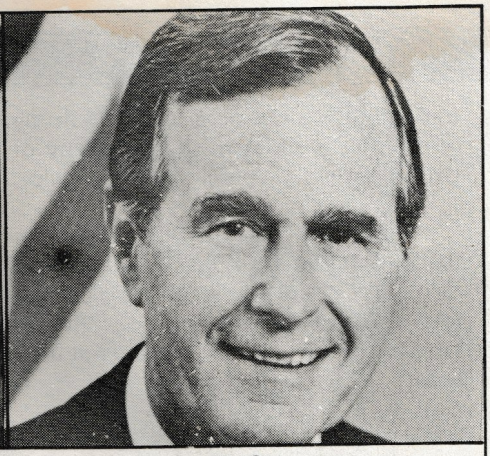


ELYSON C. ORPILLA
President & Publisher

STATE VISIT

food processing textile, and agribusiness. The talk will heighten Philippine investment opportunities at a luncheon for the President hosted by the Canadian Club and Empire Club. Issues on Philippine economic policies and social development will be tackled.

AQUINO



BUSH

MULRONEY

Then Mrs. Aquino will fly to Ottawa where she will be met by Jeanne Sauve, governor general and commander-in-chief of Canada. In the Canadian capital, the Filipino leader will meet Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and the members of the Cabinet Committee on Foreign and Defense Policy. Aside from investment and trade talks, the two heads of states will also discuss active Canadian participation in debt relief program and greater inflow of Canadian official development assistance (ODA) to the Philippines.

Mrs. Aquino will also seek Canada's support in advancing Philippines' interest during important international fora like GATT-MIN, IMF, WB, and Paris and London Club. She will also seek Canadian recognition for the effort of the Aquino government in improving human rights condition in the Philippines. Finally, the President will conclude the Philippine-Canada Extradition Treaty.

The Canadian prime minister will host a farewell dinner for Mrs. Aquino on November 7 at the end of her three-city, four-day visit to Canada. She will proceed to New York the next day for a series of meetings with business leaders. The President will have a breakfast meeting with the New York Stock Exchange board of directors at the NYSE building on Wall Street. She will also meet with selected entrepreneurs in a gathering hosted by Malcolm Forbes and have lunch with members of the business and financial community listed by the New York Chamber of Commerce and the US Business Council. Her New York schedule includes a meeting with the members of the Filipino community.

On this occasion, Mrs. Aquino will launch the First Philippine Fund. And because the equity market nosedived the past weeks with damaging momentum, it would necessitate for the visiting Philippine statehead to make some commentary on the investment climate in Manila with the end in view of attracting prospective American investors.

She will then fly to Washington for the main event of her US jaunt. She wi' be met by State Secretary James Baker and will stay there until November 10.

The White House talk will have the Philippine panel headed by President Aquino. She will be assisted by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul S. Manglapus, Philippine Ambassador to the US Emmanuel Pelaez and Azcuna. The US side will have President George Bush, Secretary of State James Baker and Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater.

It will be the first state visit of Mrs. Aquino to the White House. Her US trip in September, 1986 was an official working visit, according to Malacanan. The trip this time will focus on the economic directions and priorities of her administration. Aside from the usual clamor for healthier bilateral trade that should give Philippine exports wider access to the US market, Mrs. Aquino will clarify and confirm American commitments to the Philippine Assistance Program (PAP), known in the US as the Multilateral Aid Initiative (MAI). She will also encourage more active American support for RP's debt relief program.

In their political chat, the President and her aides will impress upon their counterparts that the Aquino government has gained some measure of economic and political stability, a self-serving blurb anti-Aquino factions in the US will try to satire reportedly in the form of protest rally.

According to the official talking points, Mrs. Aquino will also project the Philippines commitment to international concerns especially human rights, drug abuse and environmental protection. But some public relations eggheads frown upon making such verbal initiative in the face of recent frontpage expose against top military men that they themselves either take part in the distribution of illegal drugs or coddle the operation of an international drug syndicate.

Human rights is not only a deadweight in the agenda but also a nasty subject matter for the Aquino government to harp on. While efforts have been instituted to minimize the violation of human rights, a non-stop and loud protest against military authorities has dwarfed claims of success in this regard.

There were suggestions that the talking points should entirely confine to business and economy so that the success of the journey will be measured in the way the President reaped and brought the bacon home during her European swing in July.

But detouring from the bases agenda and from critical issues confronting Philippine society, experts say, would just the same create nasty remarks for Mrs. Aquino. PR

trations at the weekend, gathered in the center of the southern industrial city of Leipzig after a church prayer service.

"There was a great feeling of fear in the city about how this evening could turn out," Pastor Christoph Wonneberger told West German television. "But as far as we know, the police were not used once."

Earlier, Communist Party chief Erich Honecker issued an implicit warning he would not tolerate unrest.

In language reminiscent of the East-West cold war, he compared mounting public calls for change to China's pro-democracy uprising crushed by troops and tanks in June and said any attempt to undermine communism in East Germany would fail.

Authorities had refused Western journalists' permission to travel to Leipzig for the demonstration, which church sources estimated was 50,000-to 70,000-strong.

But the night many reformists feared would bring bloody clashes produced what could be the first signs of compromise from regional communist authorities.

Wonneberger said three senior members of the city's communist leadership had promised to do all in their power to open talks with reform activists. The pledge was broadcast on local radio just as the protest began.

"It's difficult to say whether this reflects any change of policy at the top level," he said.

Honecker, who was a close ally of reformist Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev's discredited predecessor, Leonid Brezhnev, has so far refused to accept any need for reform. He has blamed an exodus of more than 45,000 disgruntled citizens in the past month on Western subversion.

But Gorbachev, whose presence at Saturday's official festivities rallied pro-reform activists, has said he will allow Moscow's allies to choose their own political direction.

In East Berlin celebrations of communist state's 40th anniversary ended in street clashes between security forces and thousands of demonstrators, there were also signs the authorities had changed their tactics.

Candles bured in windows along the shabby cobbled streets of the Prenzlauer Berg working class district as a silent symbol of support for protesters. But only a few uniformed police were visible as about 3,000 filed into the Gethsemane church for a special prayer service.

East Berlin Bishop Gottfried Forck urged the congregation to have no fear in speaking their mind openly about discontent that has stirred memories for some East Germans of the 1953 uprising against communist rule. That rebellion, prompted by stringent new work quotas, was put down by Soviet tanks.

Forck called on police to be patient with protesters and asked reform-minded citizens not to take part in unauthorized street demonstrations that could be cited as an attempt to put pressure on government.

Church sources in Dresden, shaken last Wednesday by the fiercest rioting of this wave of unrest, said the city had enjoyed its first evening without protest for five days. Earlier reports spoke of demonstrations there and in the city of Halle.

They said 20 pro-reform activists had met city officials and presented demands including legalization of New Forum, the biggest of several independent groups. A second meeting was agree for next Monday. R

Roxas as a lavish investor and fund-source, making it appear that the Filipino-Chinese heiress to a multi-billion business conglomerate is a superstar visitor every time she sets foot on Philippine soil.

With her money plus overflowing publicity, Bien-Bien might just be tempted to turn into politics. Perhaps she can start representing the Bicol region or Manila in Philippine Congress.

Lito Sarte
Legaspi City

GF sub-mag

What particular issue of the Asia-Pacific REVIEW which carries the Girl Friday sub-magazine, Sir? You see, I am interested to subscribe only with the issues carrying *GF*.

Do you also print press releases? Herewith is our anniversary celebration last month. We have the biggest DH association down here.

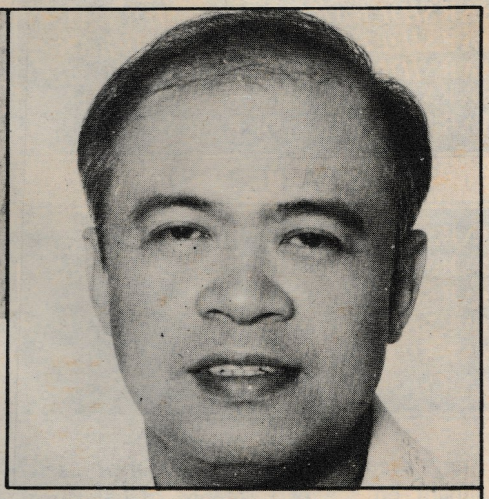
Helen Gallera
Hongkong

Corruption

I would like to commend the editorial staff of the Asia-Pacific REVIEW for having exposed in details how government officials gypped the government with billions of pesos. I agree with your article (Sept. 15) that 90% of the local government officials steal public funds and protect gambling.

Andy Bontia
Cebu City

Tourism Secretary Garrucho quarterbacks bold promotions offensive as part of the overall thrust of Cory's business trip ...



GARRUCHO

My American driver told me though that weeks ago six cops were fired for dipping their hands into a multi-million dollar cocaine catch. Now, he said, some big names were implicated and an investigation could give Bradly an administration blackeye, a nasty development played down by some city hall officials because "only the small boys are involved in the drug protection deal...."

Many describe L.A. as a thick similarity of New York in terms of violence. Young boys addicted to drugs carry guns, break into houses, rob elders and engage among themselves in street gunfight.

In terms of social help, many complain of paying more taxes and receiving less from the government. Homelessness is a growing social disease and there is accusation that the government is not doing fairly well to solve the problem.

How all these affect Filipino life in California, there is no common voice to measure the adversity. Many don't mind it at all. They work all day through night for the mighty dollar with clear belief and approval that their second home is much better than what they had in Manila.

"With astronomical consumer prices back home, I prefer to stay in Los Angeles," Redemptor Catipon shakes his head with verbal protest of what the hell is going on in the Philippines. He works as bellman at Hyatt Wilshire where some Filipino employees express the same sentiment.

BRADLY

But their smiles during my brief talk with them wouldn't indicate that such disappointment over high prices in Manila could sour their reception for the President when she winds up her US visit in Los Angeles on November 11.

Actually, it was in that city where the trade promotion assault of Mrs. Aquino's business trip was initially mounted. Tourism Secretary Peter Garrucho immediately put into motion a bold plan to increase Philippine trade with the US. On hitting Los Angeles last weekend, the tourism chief buckled down to work by selling the Philippines' new hospitality projects to top US travel companies and packagers.

Assisted by Tourism Attache Loy Martinez, Secretary Garrucho met with big names in the US tourism industry even as he unwrapped come-on projects notably the Christmas Village which is expected to whip up human traffic to Manila in time for the yuletide season.

Already undergoing construction in San Fernando, Pampanga (Philippines), the Christmas Village is contiguous the American community at Clark Air Base, one of six US military installations in the archipelago. The tourism project is just an hour away from Manila.

The village will showcase traditional Filipino celebration of Christmas focusing on quality Christmas decors, souvenir items, and Christmas experience all year-round. It will also provide all the elements of traditional Filipino practices with a theme of Filipino Christmas ambiance through unparalleled re-enactment of regional practices, special shops, museums, crafts, demonstrations and dioramas.

To spring one major project like this requires a resilient plan and no other than Undersecretary for Tourism Promotions, Mina Gabor herself is positive that the Christmas Village will make Pampanga a major travel destination in the near future enticing both local and foreign visitors.

What makes Christmas Village a major attraction is the fact that the whole village will be resembling a giant Christmas lantern which is a typical product of San Fernando artisans out of native materials drawn from their hush surroundings.

An appealing interest of this place are several lantern-like sectors within this enormous lantern-shape village. A particular sector will feature Filipino regional dishes through several eatery structures in the vicinity. While there is also a specific set-up for the manufacture of Christmas decors made out of indigenous materials like sea-shells, abaca fibers, coco-shells, bamboo and native hardwoods. Also to be displayed are the traditional Filipino dresses like the *balintawak, malong,* and *Maria Clara* wedding ensemble.

OTTAWA, Nov. 6 (Via PLDT) -- Mrs. Aquino's state visit to Canada entered the third day as of this writing and so far her blueprinted agenda for Ottawa was being undertaken on course except for minor problems arising from over-zealous security arrangement.

Welcoming Filipino crowds representing 70 groups in Canada -- though irked by tight security cordon -- set the tone for warm reception for the Filipino leader, creating public opinion that Mrs. Aquino still enjoys strong political sup-

READ NEXT PAGE

SIDEBAR

The STATE VISIT

SIDEBAR

Cory's visit to the Big Apple is warmly awaited by welcoming Filipino crowd but the mayoral joust this week in New York could upstage the arrival ceremony ....

port even in the face of either-or assessment on the performance of her three-year administration.

The President's arrival speech drew praise from Governor General Jeanne Sauve who said that Mrs. Aquino's visit to Canada has been preceded "by the renown of your outstanding qualities and your accomplishments since the moment, when, in dramatic circumstances, you rallied the defenders of democracy."

Affirming Canada's firms support for President Aquino's leadership, Mrs. Sauve said, "Who could refuse you support while you are engaged in the difficult task of rebuilding democracy."

The visit is widely labelled by some as a diplomatic effort designed to forage some $100 million financial assistance from the Canadian government and to push trade expansion through liberalization of tariff barriers for a dozen of Philippine products.

Mrs. Aquino recalled in the same speech that it was the Canadian ambassador who first presented her credentials to her government upon assumption to the presidency. And perhaps by desire rather than by circumstance, Canada was the first state to recognize the Aquino government which had undergone a brief revolutionary status.

Her widely applauded visit which culminated November 7 with a top-level talk with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was, however, dampened by scalding satire from the local broadcast media. Canadian TV reports have Mrs. Aquino described in bold language as visiting Canada for money. One news program also objectively accused the Aquino administration as having done little or none to stop violations of human rights in the Philippines.

Ottawa's newspaper *Citizen* -- which printed the President's photo with a screaming frontpage story -- described the accusations and abuses as having dogged the visit. Leaders of human rights and aid organizations denounced the Philippine military for killing its critics, using torture and failing to control paramilitary and vigilante groups fighting the country's communist insurgency.

Church leader, Rev. Robert Smith, was also quoted by the *Citizen* as describing Aquino as having become powerless to stop the abuses despite her repeated condemnation of them. Smith also said that the level of corruption and the level of disparity between the rich and the poor is exactly the way it was at the time of Marcos, adding, Mrs. Aquino has had time, and if she had the power she should have been able to turn this thing around at least marginally.

While everyting has been going on fine midway of the visit, the New York itinerary may turn bleak in terms of frontpage exposure. New Yorkers will go to polls Tuesday to elect a new mayor and the sideshow featuring two vibrant and standout mayoral candidates could easily upstage the arrival of Mrs. Aquino.

David Dinkins who ditched incumbent Mayor Edward Koch in the Democratic primary, is a big news. He offers himself as a symbol of goodwill after Koch's almost 12 years of confrontational style. His speeches evoke visions of harmony. And his verbal prose draw popular support to his call for "working together to achieve greatness....

He wears a traditional Jewish yarmulke with natural grace as he schmoozes with venerated rabbis. If Dinkins wins, he will be the first black mayor of New York. That makes him a good copy during and after the poll campaign, consequently making other political personalities during the week less newsworthy.

Out to pull the rug underneath him is Rudolph Guiliani, also a premium newsmaker and himself the central figure in the prosecution of the Marcoses on racketeering charges. He indicted Mrs. Imelda Marcos, a prosecutorial feat preceded by sterling performance as district attorney of New York. He is being bandied around as a man who fears no one.

Dinkins and Guiliani are expected to go dirty in the last 24 hours of the poll campaign, and how the voting crowd -- including the Filipinos -- love and eagerly await the finale of the electoral joust.

Reports have it that both mayoral candidates will be flooding the television and radio airwaves with scalding commercials in a last-minute battle to sway voters before they go to the polls. For instance, Guiliani will rev up his TV barrage from 10-second to 60-second spot showing footages of one-time Dinkins' campaign aide Sonny Carson, a convicted kidnaper. He has warned that he will amplify police reports that Carson had committed the crime because "he hates Whites."

The issue of racism can be thrown back by Dinkins. He could refresh circumstances and stories about Italians who for many years have excluded Blacks from communal activities and from residing in all-white urban housing districts.

Like Philippine politics characterized by muckraking and mud-pelting, the November 7 balloting is a big spectacle in New York. Guiliani is expected to expose more underhanded business dealings of Dinkins. He would ask the latter in the final of two scheduled debates to open his stock books and to present publicly the business records of financial contributions to Dinkins' group.

Filipino sentiments -- and poll support -- are also interesting. Those who are identified with Mrs. Aquino help Guiliani, according to some Filipinos who rave about the indictment of Mrs. Marcos.

And those who hate Guiliani are campaigning for Dinkins who continually piles up his lead based on pre-poll surveys.

The poll fever is running high in New York and I fear Mrs. Aquino couldn't land on the frontpage Tuesday. PR

The art of writing.

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